

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given this application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Status of the Claims

- Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 21-25 are cancelled, without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue these or similar claims in a continuation application.
- The allowance of claims 1-20 is acknowledged, with appreciation.

Rejections of Claims 21-25

Claims 21-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mauer '231 in view of Lyon '820 and Bolle '475. Claims 21-25 have been canceled, without prejudice. These rejections are therefore moot, and should be withdrawn.

The arguments presented in this response are sufficient to fully traverse the rejections under § 103. Therefore, applicants have not presented all possible arguments, and may not have refuted all characterizations of either the claims or the prior art as may be found in the Office Action. However, the lack of such arguments or refutations is not intended to waive such arguments or indicate concurrence with such characterizations.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-25 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

To the extent it would be helpful to placing this application in condition for allowance, the Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact the undersigned counsel and conduct a telephonic interview.

While no fees are believed due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-3683.

Application No. 10/715,777
November 27, 2008

Docket No.: 70086-00022

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 26, 2008

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